

Mammoth Cochise County Powder Factory Soon to Start Producing Dynamite

PLANT OF APACHE POWDER COMPANY RECEIVING FINISHING TOUCHES PREPARATORY TO MAKING INITIAL RUN; MINIMUM OF 60,000 AND MAXIMUM OF 75,000 POUNDS WILL BE CAPACITY OF NEW MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISE; MINING COMPANIES FOSTER NEW INDUSTRY FOR BENEFIT OF ARIZONA MINES; COCHISE WILL GAIN BY OPENING OF BLASTING POWDER PLANT

Few people in Cochise county do not realize the tremendous size of the Apache Powder company's plant, now nearing completion near St. David, just 16 miles from Tombstone, which will be turning out a minimum of 60,000 pounds of explosives per day not later than April first.

Saturday the editor of this paper in company with Major Geo. H. Kelly, editor of the Douglas International, paid a visit to the big industrial powder plant and were shown through the workings from start to finish.

The finishing touches are just being put on the great enterprise with the view to turning out the first product about the end of March or the first of April.

Ideal Location

Located at an ideal site for an explosive manufacturing plant and covering almost 1,000 acres, over a mile square, there are 65 buildings constituting the plant, ranging from the smallest explosive warehouse to the huge powerhouse, which at present has not been completed, an addition to be built housing another boiler when the maximum production is attained.

The site of the plant is ideal from the standpoint of natural protection to buildings and surrounding property from explosions. It is divided into danger and safety zones. Offices, shops, powder houses, stores, dwellings, etc., are within a zone protected from danger of explosion by high hills and ridges. This constitutes the "safety zone." The "danger zone," where the explosive ingredients are handled and powder actually made, located in deep gullies and ravines. Each building within the danger zone is located and protected so that if an explosion should occur no damage would result to other buildings.

Tombstone Machinery

In the powerhouse, furnishing 1000 steam horsepower to the big electrical engine, which in turn generates 500 K W of electrical energy which will be the chief power for operation of the different units, is the big Sterling boiler which formerly did duty at the old Tombstone Consolidated Mines company in Tombstone. It has been rebuilt and now will be on duty daily as it was when over a million gallons of water every 24 hours pumped from the Tombstone mines, from the horsepower it furnished. Considerable other machinery and equipment, including huge water tanks, which formerly did service in Tombstone, were also purchased by the company and installed at the plant.

"The Business End"

With W. F. Jones, engineer of what is known as the acid area, a trip through the nitro plant, and a dozen other subsidiary and mixing storage buildings was made and the process of manufacture of explosives explained, which, however, was too technical for the average layman to understand.

About the only thing that does make a solid impression on the timid and ignorant in the powder manufacturing building, is the nitroglycerine plant, located at the highest point on the works. Here the final cleansing of the nitroglycerin after it has gone through its various stages of treatment and before it is ready to be sent down to the mixing houses, undergoes its last handling, with one man, who must be an expert, to say the least, in charge.

Explosion Danger Small

Huge lead vats, manufactured on the grounds, receive the nitroglycerin as it is pumped from the big stills and condensers, located a couple of hundred feet below. Temperature—and the proper temperature—is the main point to be looked after at this stage. But if something goes wrong,

which doesn't one time out of a million in experienced hands, there are two precautions taken. The first thing for the operator to do is to dump the entire contents of the lead tank, some 5600 pounds of nitroglycerin, into a water tank directly below and then flee for his life through a nearby door, to which is attached a slide, similar to those used on school playgrounds. When the operator hits the ground the rest is up to him to cover the distance around a nearby hill before the explosion—if it's going to come. Should an entire charge explode about the only loss would be the building and a water tank nearby, so the adaptability of the location of the big plant to the hills in which the Apache Powder plant is located, can be readily seen.

Miles of Pipe, Hose, Rail

Leading from the nitroglycerin plant hundreds of feet of rubber hose, similar to that used by fire departments convey the high explosive liquid to the mixing house a thousand yards below where the final process of mixing the various ingredients, making the finished dynamite stick, takes place. From there is goes to storage to be delivered to the market.

Three and one-half miles of narrow gauge track connect up the various plants and warehouses of the company, the motive power being electricity. Over 23 miles of pipe from one-half inch to 22 inch was used in the construction of the plant; and almost 7000 feet of rubber hose which carries the nitro glycerin has been installed.

Many Carloads Material

Over 250 carloads of machinery, equipment and building material have been received in the construction of the mammoth plant, which came mostly from the east, a part of it coming from the Nitro, W. Va., gun-cotton plant and a part from the Mt. Union, Pa., picric acid plant. The dynamite manufacturing machinery came from New York, where W. W. Edwards, general manager of the plant, was formerly located in the powder manufacturing industry before and during the war. He and his assistant manager, D. E. Fogg, both came from the Aetna Explosives company of New York to take charge of the construction of the Apache Powder plant. Both are experienced powder manufacturers. Construction work started in June, 1919.

While the machinery for the erection of the plant came from the east, western products also entered into the construction, principally lumber. The lead equipment was manufactured on the grounds. Many carloads of materials, principally those which will enter into the manufacture of the explosives are arriving daily and will continue to come as production starts. Saturday six carloads of soda nitrates, which come from Chile, arrived and were unloaded into the mammoth nitrate warehouse just completed. Other supplies such as flours, cornmeals, pulps, acids and cotton are enroute.

Sulphuric Plant in Douglas

The sulphuric acid used in the manufacture of the nitroglycerin comes from the 30-ton plant which the company built at the C. & A. smelter in Douglas. The glycerin comes from St. Louis, while the other products are secured in various sections of the United States, principally the east and middle west.

Artesian Water

Water for the plant is furnished by a 16-inch artesian well over 700 feet deep, the water, however, coming only to within six feet of the top owing to the elevation. About 400 gallons per minute, which is more than is needed, is pumped by air lift. This will be in-

creased as the demands require when maximum production is reached.

Huge Production

A minimum of 60,000 pounds of dynamite and gelatin explosives besides the semi-products, such as gun-cotton and other commercial products, will be produced per day when the plant is started. A maximum of 75,000 pounds per day will be attained as the demand increases, according to the figures furnished by General Manager Edwards.

Consumption in Arizona and New Mexico alone in 1918 totaled over 18,000,000 pounds annually, Mr. Edwards said, beside the Mexican demand, and the company plans to supply not only the local but other fields as well.

The Mexican demand is expected to reach greater proportions also as developments continue in the border country, particularly in Sonora, Chihuahua and the west coast.

Mining Companies Owners

The principal stockholders of the company are the large mining companies of the state and it is no secret that the erection of the plant was to furnish them, as users of millions of pounds of dynamite annually, with cheaper explosives, which have been made almost prohibitive by high freight rates.

C. E. Mills of the Inspiration Consolidated Copper company of Miami, is president of the Apache Powder company, W. F. Harper of New York, treasurer, J. E. Curry of Bisbee, secretary, W. W. Edwards, general manager and D. E. Fogg, assistant manager.

Employ Skilled Men

In the neighborhood of over 100 skilled workmen will be employed at the works when it starts to be increased as the maximum is attained. Homes for the workmen will be built in a townsite later to be provided by the company on land which they own nearby in the safety zone.

The principal offices of the company have been at Benson, but they will be removed to Curtis, near the plant, where the E. P. & S. W. railroad company is at present building a two-story depot.

Means Much to Cochise

The addition of the Apache Powder plant to the industry of Cochise county will mean much to the county in wealth and production, since many small mining properties, as well as the larger one will be able to take advantage of the cheaper blasting powder rates which are bound to result from the production of the plant.

Increased business to nearby cities and towns will also result and Tombstone is bound to come in for its share of it, while later it is possible the company may decide to furnish electrical power, of which they will have much surplus, to farmers in the San Pedro Valley for pumping and domestic purposes.

While the exact cost and value of the big plant has never been made public, conservative guess would place it at \$3,000,000.

GAVE RENDON, STAGE DRIVER SHOT IN ARM WHILE ATTEMPTING TO STOP FIGHT

NOGALES, March 1.—Gabriel Rendon, of Tucson, better known to his friends as Gave Rendon, driver of a Nogales-Tucson stage, was shot in the right arm in Nogales, Sonora, at 1 o'clock yesterday.

He was removed to St. Joseph's hospital in this city, where the wound was dressed and taken to his home in Tucson on this afternoon's train.

The man who did the shooting is named Villini and is now in jail in Nogales, Sonora.

According to information learned by the Herald today, the shot was not intended for Rendon, but for a Nogales, Arizona, man. Villini and the Nogales man were fighting, and Rendon was attempting to separate them when he was shot.

NOGALES HUNTERS GET

ANTELOPE, DEER, SHEEP

NOGALES, March 2.—A party of Nogales hunters headed by Col. A. J. McNab, Jr., commandant of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, Camp Stephen D. Little, returned today from a 12-day hunting trip to Port Libertad, Mexico, 190 miles from Nogales. They bagged two antelope, two deer and four mountain sheep.

AUGUA PRIETA POLICE OFFICERS HELD AT BAY BY LONE FISCAL GUARD

DOUGLAS, Feb. 28.—The sharp report of a heavy caliber army rifle and the accompanying whine of a bullet arrested the advance of Captain Pedro Gonzales of the Augua Prieta police force and his fearless followers, who were in search of an automobile which was supposed to be crossing the line near Augua Prieta loaded with munitions Saturday night. Another shot followed.

"Caramba," shouted the captain, "we have found him—he is ours, onward my brave men." But ten or twelve more shots fired in the general direction of their hiding place resulted in a decision on the part of the men that precaution was the better part of valor. A few tense moments of silence and one of the policemen fired into the darkness, which was accompanied by a groan.

Believing that their assailant was shot, but not satisfied with merely wounding him, the policeman fired a volley and rushed to a clump of bushes from where the groan emanated, expecting to find a man riddled with bullets. They found a fiscal guard, "half shot," who had been sent out on a similar mission of preventing the landing of the munitions. He was taken to the police station and locked up on a charge of "interfering with officers in their duty."

FAMILIAR BISBEE

CHARACTER IS DEAD

BISBEE, March 2.—William Hayne, the goat man, a familiar figure on the streets of Bisbee for the past ten or twelve years, died yesterday at the county hospital in Douglas.

About two weeks ago Hayne was found ill in his cabin at his ranch on Juniper Flats by two Mexicans. They brought him to town and he was sent to the county hospital. He was suffering from an attack of influenza which developed into pneumonia and which caused his death.

Hayne was about 75 years of age and had been a resident of the county for about thirty-five years. He was a resident of Tombstone in the eighties and then moved to the vicinity of Naco where he was in the goat business for several years and then moved to Juniper Flats where he was in the goat business for several years, but during the past few years had disposed of his flock.

Hayne was highly educated and was able to talk in a number of foreign languages. His wife died a number of years ago. He has two sons living in California who have been notified of his death.

TWO HOUSES IN

COCHISE ARE BURNED

BISBEE, Feb. 28.—Fire early Sunday morning destroyed two houses in Cochise and badly damaged a third. The houses of E. C. Martin and Frank Pettus were destroyed and the house of a Slavonian damaged. The loss is estimated at about \$3,000, partly covered by insurance.

The fire started in the Martin house by the explosion of a stove, according to "Buck" Haggard, who was occupying the house. Returning from work he started a fire under a hot bed of water to make some coffee and then stepped to another room for a few moments. He had been there about a minute when he heard an explosion and rushed to the kitchen to see the room in flames.

The Warren and Lowell departments answered the alarm and kept the fire from spreading to other houses.

PHOENIX BANK

CLOSES ITS DOORS

PHOENIX, March 1.—The Bank of Phoenix failed to open its doors today. The institution formerly was the Central bank, which suspended business on March 21, 1921, and was reorganized three months later as the Bank of Phoenix. A recent statement listed the capitalization at \$100,000 and deposits aggregating \$1,537,485.

"Unforeseen conditions, making impossible the anticipated liquidation, have made it necessary for the state banking department to take over the bank's affairs," said a statement by State Superintendent of Banks Fairfield.

THE TRUE TEST

WHEN JAMES J. HILL, THE GREAT EMPIRE BUILDER OF THE NORTHWEST, WAS ASKED TO GIVE A TEST OF THE SUCCESSFUL YOUNG MAN, HE WROTE:

"THE TEST IS SIMPLE AND INFALLIBLE. IT IS ABILITY TO SAVE MONEY. CAN YOU SAVE SOMETHING EACH MONTH? IF NOT, DROP OUT, AS YOU ARE GOING TO BE A FAILURE."

PONDER THE FOREGOING SIMPLE TEST, AND DECIDE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE A SUCCESS, NOT A FAILURE.

THE SAVINGS HABIT IS A GOOD HABIT.

LET THIS SAFE CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL BANK ASSIST YOU IN ITS CULTIVATION.

The First National Bank Of Tombstone

Member Federal Reserve System and American Bankers Association

"The Bank of Courteous Service"

SERIES OF BOOZE RAIDS IN BISBEE

A carefully planned and systematic drive on various places under suspicion as possible lairs of the Jemum Rum, was conducted in Bisbee today by federal, county and city authorities.

The raids came thick and fast, the officers moving quickly from one place to another and as the result of careful and secretive planning managed to take the "joints" by surprise.

The first raid, conducted by Deputy Probation Officer C. A. Housel, Deputy Sheriff Gipson, Constable Walter Sheppard, Chief of Police Wm. Brakfield and Officer Reese, resulted in the placing of Tex Odem in the Bisbee city jail. The raid was made on the Crescent rooming house. The officers secured two quarts of white mule, in addition to Odem.

Next was the raid at Cowan Ridge near Lowell, where Mrs. Mary Murphy and Chas. Buralich were taken in tow, along with a gallon of white mule and 125 bottles of beer. Mrs. Murphy was later released while Buralich was confined to the city jail. This raid was conducted by C. A. Housel, Deputy Sheriffs Fred Kenney and Billy Ryan and Constable Sheppard.

The next scene of raiding activity was in Johnson Addition, when the officers entered a house owned by a man named Owen, armed with warrants for the arrest of John Doe Owen and Jane Doe Owen. This raid netted a quantity of white mule and one bottle of beer.

Raid No. 4 was on the Mexican Social club, located under the brokerage offices of E. J. Overlock. This raid, however, netted a goose egg, as all was serene when the officers entered the club.

Late this afternoon it was intimated that other raids would be made before dark, and if this intimation is correct, nightcaps will be scarce in the Hill City tonight.

GROTTO CONCERT AND DANCE POSTPONED

The concert and dance scheduled to be given at Schleffelin Hall on the 4th of March, when the Altan Koi Grotto band of Tucson was to play here has been postponed until a week later, March 11th, when the same programme will be in store. Owing to the inability of the band to come here on the 4th, the date was advanced one week. The Grotto band, which is said to be one of the best in the state, will render a high class band concert in the hall, followed by a dance at which the Grotto orchestra will play. Members of the Tucson lodge who will accompany the band will be the guests of the Tombstone Masonic bodies while here.

GET EIGHT MONTHS FOR DISTILLING

This afternoon Judge Lockwood, in Division 1 of the Superior Court, sentenced Pedro Noperi and Roberto Duran to serve eight months and pay a fine of \$25 each when they pleaded guilty to running a still. The two were arrested by county and federal officers a week ago in the Whetstone mountains, and their still and booze and mash destroyed. It is possible a federal charge will be placed against them when their term expires here.

RANCHER DIES IN GLEESON

The funeral of Jake Preston, rancher of Gleeson, who died there Monday due to bladder trouble, was held yesterday afternoon in Gleeson. Preston was 56 years of age and had been ill only a few days before death. He recently purchased what is known as the Ridgway place near Gleeson, one of the best ranches in that district. He leaves a wife and adopted child, Mrs. Preston being a former Tombstone girl. They resided at Courtland and vicinity for the past twenty years before removing to Gleeson.

Nogales—Chamber of Commerce is conducting campaign for a new tourist hotel.



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Cochise County State Bank

TOMBSTONE

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

BENSON

THE BANK OF SECURITY AND SERVICE